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REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report supplements and updates the information on the Fund communicated at the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights in the statement by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, as well as information available in the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its twenty-second session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13, chap. IV) and in the note by the Secretariat to the Working Group on the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees at its third session, which have been approved by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1997/14).

2. In its previous report to the Commission on Human Rights on the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (E/CN.4/1997/76) the Secretary-General had indicated that the total amount available in 1997 was US$ 27,524 (para. 13) and that this amount might not be sufficient to allow the Board of Trustees to hold its third session and allocate a few travel and project grants to NGOs.

3. In its resolution 1996/61, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to transmit once again to all Governments the appeal of the Commission for contributions to the Fund and invited the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the Commission at its fifty-third session.

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4. By its resolution 1996/18 of 29 August 1996, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities urged all Governments, governmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions and private individuals to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund and invited a representative of the Board of Trustees of the Fund to participate in the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its twenty-second session.

5. The High Commissioner for Human Rights sent letters to the permanent missions of all States on 10 December 1996, to ask them to contribute to the Fund.

6. Despite the financial difficulties mentioned in the above paragraph 2 above, with the limited funds available and a donation by Air India (aeroplane ticket) to the Chairman, the Board had been able to meet from 17 to 19 March 1997 and to recommend three project grants for a total of US$ 10,250 and six travel grants for a total of US$ 13,600 (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1997/4).

7. The High Commissioner for Human Rights approved those recommendations on 27 March and the grants were paid before the meeting of the Working Group.

8. The Board members met with interested donors during the Board's session on 19 March 1997 and established contacts with other donors attending the session of the Commission on Human Rights on 17 and 18 March. The Board mandated its Chairman, Swami Agnivesh, to present its activities and the financial situation of the Fund at the Commission's meeting on Monday, 24 March, under the relevant item of the agenda of the Commission and at the invitation of the Bureau of the Commission. On that occasion, the Chairman indicated that in order for the Board to be able to meet in 1998 and to respond to the requirements of a minimum number of NGO applicants, he would need the very basic amount of US$ 100,000. Otherwise, the Board would not be in a position to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13, para. 33).

9. In its resolution 1997/20, the Commission on Human Rights again requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments an appeal for contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

10. The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its twenty-second session from 2 to 11 June 1997 examined the recommendations of the Board and heard two members of the Board who participated at their own expense and five persons who represented six NGOs financed by the Fund (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13, paras. 28-36).

11. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1997/21, expressed its appreciation for the participation of the representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund and for their valuable contribution to the work of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; encouraged the activities of those NGOs financed by the Fund; thanked the Chairman and the members of the Board of Trustees of the Fund who attended the session of the Working Group for their constructive participation in its work; and expressed

its support for the work of the members of the Board of Trustees, in particular their fund-raising activities. The Sub-Commission also urged all Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively. It invited the members of the Board of Trustees in a position to do so to participate at the twenty-third session of the Working Group and decided to continue to examine the situation and the activities of the Fund at its fiftieth session.

12. On 2 December 1997, the High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to all Governments appealing to them to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund. The High Commissioner, at the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, invited Governments to forward their contributions, if possible, on an annual basis and prior to the Board's next session, scheduled for 25-27 March 1998. She explained that recommendations for expenditure were based on paid contributions, not pledges, and that an early contribution would allow the Board to allocate funds in time for her to approve the allocations and their disbursement before the 1998 session of the Working Group.

13. As at 31 October 1997, only US$ 8,500 were available under the Trust Fund.

Annex I

VOLUNTARY FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Account SH

Contributions received from 20 April 1993 to 17 December 1997 1/

Country	Amount in US$	Paid in New York	Paid in Geneva	Paid on
Chile	2 500		x	16 Feb. 1994
Kuwait	12 000		x	20 May 1994
Morocco	2 318		x	4 May 1995
Netherlands	27 495		x	
Switzerland	15 152		x	8 Dec. 1994
TOTAL	59 465			
NGOs	Amount in US$	Paid in New York	Paid in Geneva	Paid on
Dr. Buscioni-Francolanci	500		x	28 Sept. 1994
Child Eyes Campaign	100		x	20 April 1993
TOTAL	600			
GRAND TOTAL	60 065			
Donation (air ticket) Air India	1 875			

1/ Based on information available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Annex II

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

Contributions to the Fund can be made by payment to:

The United Nations Geneva General Fund
c/o Swiss Bank Corporation
(Société de banque suisse, SBS)
P.O. Box 2770 CH 1211 Geneva 2

- in US$, Acc. CO - 590 - 160.1
- in CHF, Acc. CO - 590 - 160.0

Please mention:

"For the UN Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery
Account SH "

Contributions can also be made by cheque to the UN Cashier's Office
UNO, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

or United Nations, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

In any of these cases, please mention payment to the order of the "United Nations"